



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
10 W. JACKSON BLVD.
CHICAGO, IL 60604

NEWS RELEASE

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Mexican National Sentenced for Document Fraud

Chicago, IL - Brian R. Perryman, District Director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, together with Scott R. Lassar, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, announced the sentencing today of a Mexican national for the production and sale of counterfeit identification documents in Elgin, Illinois.

Hector Ramirez-Perez, age 22, an illegal alien from Mexico residing at 1631 Mulberry Court in Elgin, was sentenced to 15 months in prison by U.S. District Court Judge Robert W. Gettleman.

On December 13, 1999, INS agents, with the assistance of the Elgin Police Department, arrested Ramirez-Perez as a result of an undercover investigation in which INS agents purchased counterfeit documents from Ramirez-Perez. Ramirez-Perez produced the counterfeit documents at his residence in Elgin, which was set up as a "document mill," with the tools and equipment used to manufacture fraudulent identity documents. Counterfeit documents sell on the street for between \$80 to \$150 per set, which includes a false social security card and green card, and are routinely manufactured and sold to illegal aliens who purchase such documents to obtain employment.

"The INS is cracking down on criminals who manufacture and sell false documents," said INS District Director Brian R. Perryman. "Our Special Agents are out on the streets in Chicago to ensure that these documents do not get into the hands of this country's illegal workers."

Since 1998, INS agents in Chicago have confiscated approximately 60,000 fraudulent documents from illegal manufacturers and vendors. Ramirez-Perez will be surrendered to the INS upon completion of his sentence to be placed in INS custody for deportation proceedings.

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